556. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, in his recent communication to the Prime Minister, the former Indian High Commissioner in South Africa, had criticised Government's diplomacy towards the South African regime;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister has received no communication from the former Indian High Commissioner in South Africa criticising Government's diplomacy towards the South African regime.

Illegal Indian Immigrants

557. SHRI RAGHAVJI:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of illegal Indian immigrants abroad;

(b) whether there has been a spurt, recently in their number;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) in what way Government propose to contain this spurt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) As per information available, about 1,38,373 Indian nationals have been found to be allegedly staying illegally in various countries abroad.

(b) Government continues to receive reports about the presence of Indians staying abroad illegally. However there is no specific information to suggest that there has been any sudden spurt in their numbers recently.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In order to check the problem of illegal migration, following guidelines and procedural safeguards have been put in place:—

(i) It is obligatory for all unskilled, semi-skilled and certain categories of skilled workers proceeding abroad for employment to get emigration clearance from the Ministry of Labour;

(ii) It is a cognizable offence for anyone to advertise in a newspaper soliciting applications for employment abroad, without quoting the Ministry of Labour's licence number;

(iii) As the immigration authorities act on behalf of the Protector General of Emigrants, the Protectors of Emigrants are under instructions to conduct surprise checks to see that the clauses of the Emigration Act 1983 are strictly implemented and persons are not allowed to travel without emigration clearances;

(iv) Indian diplomatic missions and posts abroad are under instructions to intimate the names of fraudulent recruiting agents-employers to the Protector General of Emigrants, Ministry of Labour to prevent recurrence of such malpractices;

(v) Complaints received against recruiting agents by the Ministry of Labour are examined in consulation with the concerned Indian diplomatic missions and posts abroad and action for suspension/cancellation of their registration certificates is taken according to the merits of the cases under the Emigration Act, 1983.